

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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SUBSCRIPTION

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To Correspondents

Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only. We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State.

RALEIGH, N. C., DEC. 15, 1891.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A "mob proof jail" is the latest thing out. A mob proof Congressman will be the next thing that will startle the world.

There was an Alliance speaking at Union Ridge on the 12th. We regret that we could not be present according to invitation.

President Polk has changed his address from 344 D. St., N. W., to Atlantic Building, F. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Emma Juch Opera Troupe had a \$1,100 house in Raleigh one night last week. Such things are another cause for hard times.

The Ocala Demands is a new Alliance paper recently started at Ocala, Fla. It is full of life and stands square on the Ocala platform.

Another minister is in trouble and has his face full of shot for kissing another man's wife. Rev. J. T. Abernathy, of Snow Hill, is the minister.

Corn sold for 80 cents per bushel in Chicago a few days ago. Yet on the same day it sold for 29 cents in Kansas, less than 500 miles from Chicago. Why is that?

Mr. J. F. Murrill, editor of the Hickory Press and Carolinian, and one of the oldest journalists in the State, died at that place last Sunday quite suddenly.

There is some good reading in this issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Read all of it carefully and be convinced. The article by Mr. W. J. Peele is rich, rare and racy. Read it twice.

Senator Peffer, of Kansas, has made a good start. The Senate was hardly in working order before he introduced two valuable bills. But, of course, it will be like casting pearls before swine in that Senate.

The Clinton Caucasian is not surprised that the press should misrepresent and Wall street give money to check the Alliance, since they saw 5,000,000 voters represented at the Supreme Council at Indianapolis.

We always did think that girls could do a great deal for reform. At Sartoria, Nebraska, the girls won't dance with a young man unless he is a member of the Alliance, and the dancing has to be done on the Ocala platform.

Our thanks are due Prof. B. D. Barker, Principal of Apex Academy, for an invitation to an entertainment to be given by the students of his excellent school on the 18th of December. We trust that it will be an enjoyable affair.

One of the best members of the North Carolina Legislature spells do "doo," enough "anuff," opposed "upposed," when writing. But who will say that he hasn't got the right ring to his spelling? Besides that, his is sound spelling.

Farming pays some people. It pays those who don't farm, frequently. Dressed pork is now selling in Raleigh by farmers at 6 1/2 cents. Citizens of Raleigh pay 12 1/2 cents or 92 per cent. profit. Should the man who raises, kills and sells a hog, get no more for it than the man who cuts it

up and sells it? This is another reason why farming don't pay. Farmers, are you going to keep up this business forever? Show your manhood and try to get full value for your labor or else quit farming.

The Wilmington Star is not so particular about working for reform. One of its leading editorials last week was above "persimons." Well, it can attend to the tariff and persimons and the rest of us will go on trying to save the country.

The Iowa Tribune and several smaller papers have combined. The total circulation is 11,520 copies. It has an able corps of editors and will make things hum for the Alliance in that State. Gen. J. B. Weaver is one of the editors.

Eight Congressmen voted for Watson, of Georgia, for Speaker. Our North Carolina Congressmen were not recorded that way. We don't know how any of them voted, but will try to find out and report. They will be looked after during the session.

President Harrison is out with an inflection in the shape of a meaningless address in which he tells of great prosperity and wonderful progress. We wonder how many more bits of "remarkable literature" will appear before some hing substantial is done?

It is reported that Hall, McAllister & Co., the anti Sub-Treasurites, have indefinitely postponed their convention at Memphis. We thought that would be the outcome of their little blowout. They had better hire somebody to kick them across the country now.

According to some of the papers a few Sub-Alliances in Georgia have disbanded. Nearly two thousand have not disbanded. But still a few will fall from grace. If you would give some people a pass to Heaven they would light their pipe with it before they got two hundred feet from the earth.

The Kinston Free Press wants to know what right a non-partisan paper like THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has to lecture the committee who sent out the Democratic address. We have the right of a citizen, of a tax-payer and a voter. We have the same right to condemn or approve that a member of any order or religious sect has.

The much abused "People's party" in Kansas seems to be a lively corpse, notwithstanding the Western Union and Associated Press dispatches. The official returns are 113,000 votes this year where only 90,000 were cast last year. The fusion between the other parties defeated their candidates in a good many counties.

The Person County Courier has the following to say: "Men in high places are declared the protectors of the few, the enemies of the many. Justice is declared a dream of fools, and injustice a fact. The bright days of the past are longed for, the gloom of the present is depicted and dark nights are depicted for the future. Men are unsatisfied. A spirit of unrest and distrust pervades the land. Prophets of evil are listened to with interest, and revolution is predicted. Strong minds are anxious, and a sea of passion heaves the masses."

We have just received one of the best books yet published concerning public affairs in the United States. The title is, "The Coming Climax in the Destinies of America," by Lester C. Hubbard, published by Chas. H. Kerr & Co., Chicago. It starts out with "The Lesson of the Great Rebellion," and carries us forward to the present time. It is a graphic story of the wrongs that the middle classes are suffering from. It shows that the ballot is the only peaceable way to settle the difficulties and that unless this method is strictly adhered to, nothing short of a bloody revolution will save the country. The price of the book is 50 cents.

The only two clothing firms in Salisbury, Messrs. H. & L. Wright and M. S. Brown, have both made assignments in the past ten days. They were all energetic business men, but our financial policy did the work. All over North Carolina failures are occurring with alarming rapidity. Just go ahead with your voting for dead issues and for parties with no issues at all, and the job will be completed. There is not a thousand business houses in North Carolina that are over ten years old. Nine-tenths are not five years old. Come out for the Ocala platform or go down in the general wreck that is sure to come in less than ten years.

Mr. David A. Wells, writing in Harper's Weekly, pictures the use of silver now held on storage by the Government. It amounts now to \$400,000,000, and increases at the rate of seven tons a day. The amount now on hand would make a column one foot in diameter and six and one-half miles high. No balloonist would ever get to the top of such a column. It would require 5,500 two horse wagons or an army of 220,000 men to carry it. It

would take a man eleven years to count it, dollar by dollar. How shall we get rid of this investment if we should ever desire to sell? And what would be the effect of selling so much silver at the price of silver? There is some thing wonderful in our silver policy.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

One of the most remarkable contests for the Speakership of the lower House of Congress terminated in the election of Mr. Crisp, of Georgia, to the position. It is said that the contest was excited and partook of some bitterness, notwithstanding the contestants were all prominent Democrats. It was charged openly that Mr. Mills was the favorite of Mr. Cleveland, Wall street and the whiskey ring, while Mr. Crisp was championed by Mr. David B. Hill, Tammany Hall and the railroads. If true, we fail to see why Alliancemen should have concerned themselves about the matter. Mr. Thos. E. Watson, a Democrat, but elected on the Alliance demands with eight others—two from Nebraska, five from Kansas and one from Minnesota, would not go into a caucus of either of the old parties. Mr. Watson was nominated and voted for by the other eight. By the way, Mr. Crisp has all the while opposed the Alliance and its demands, yet Alliancemen worked for him and voted for him.

Many of our subscribers have been carried through the summer. Crops are now being gathered and sold. If you are due anything, send it right in, for we are needing money, bad.

OPTION GAMBLING ILLUSTRATED BY THE COTTON MARKET.

The great national evil of "option" and "future" selling affects injuriously every producing region. In the West it is the producer of cereals who is injured by it; in the South it is the producer of cotton, says the Live Stock and Farm Journal.

On November 12th the price of cotton touched the lowest point ever known in the history of that staple. On the 28th of July of this year the New York price on the July option was 8.05 cents and the Liverpool price about 8 1/2 cents. This was then the lowest ever known. The market reacted and the price advanced to 9.43 cents in New York with a corresponding rise in Liverpool. From that point it has steadily declined until on the 12th of November the price for January cotton touched 7.9 cents. The price on November 12th, 1890, for January options was 9.43 cents in New York, a decline of a cent and a half a pound. Spot cotton followed the futures, although the decline was not quite so heavy.

The worst of it is that nobody seems to know what is the matter with the market. The department crop report dated November 10th was favorable to higher prices. It reported the November returns "not favorable to a high rate of yield." The "lateness of the crop, the extremes of temperature, the excess of rainfall followed by drouth, causing enfeebled vitality and loss of foliage and fruit, have been unfavorable for a large crop." Killing frosts in the northern cotton belt occurred on October 23rd, and in some places as early as the 23d—in short, all the legitimate conditions favored a strengthening of prices. Consumption is growing larger every year, and one cotton authority, not inclined to be bullish—the market editor of the Globe-Democrat—says of the actual facts, that "it will take about all that is raised to meet the demands of the manufacturers." The same authority says that "the most plausible reason given for the decline is that the market is in the hands of the New York bears, who are doing as they please with it."

There is, in fact, no other plausible explanation. So long as the market is in the hands of option and future dealers who can get it "in chancery" and pound the life out of it at their own sweet will whenever their interests may be thereby promoted, neither the producer nor legitimate speculation stands the slightest chance. By legitimate speculation we mean the kind which takes actual money and with it buys actual cotton when it is thought to be too low, and stores it for the rise that must come when it is, in fact, too low, provided the market is left to the government of the natural conditions of demand and supply. But this kind of speculation has no chance, for what man will take actual money and buy real cotton, lose interest, pay warehouse and insurance charges, etc., when he can with a comparatively small margin, buy wind cotton that answers his purpose just as well, and be attended with none of these expenses? And what man, when the market is temporarily overstocked, will and carry the excess, when he knows that future and option dealers can, almost at pleasure, hammer the price still lower, no matter at what figure it was bought?

The same conditions ruinous to the producer which the cotton market here presents, are occurring constantly with

respect to the staple food products of the West. So long as the nefarious system of gambling in produce by means of option and future dealing is permitted to continue, so long will the market be in the hands of bears, to do as they please with it, regardless of real values and the relations of demand and supply. The evil extends over so wide a scope of territory that States cannot deal with it, for no State law can cover transactions having their inception in the cotton belt or west of the Mississippi and their conclusion in New York or Chicago.

The Sub Treasury is just sitting with a look of joyous expectation on its countenance waiting for a chance to knock the stuffing out of the whole race of gamblers.

ANOTHER

We see that the North Carolina papers are copying an interview with W. S. McAllister, from the Washington Post, in which he makes it appear that President Polk is going to make vigorous and unrelenting war on C. W. Maccune. We are advised by President Polk that the whole thing is a pure fabrication from beginning to end, so far as it connects his name with the matter. We were satisfied of this, for we knew that Col. Polk would have no communication with McAllister or any other enemy of the Alliance on Alliance matters. But there is a greedy crowd standing around ready and anxious to echo any or everything they think would injure the Alliance.

THE TWO PARTIES.

Almost every day we read of somebody saying he is a "Jeffersonian Democrat," or a "Lincolinian Republican." If you are the same of either of these statesmen in principle and practice you are all right as a citizen and as a partisan. But how many of the leading men of either party follow the teachings and practice of the illustrious men of days gone by? Do you suppose that either Jefferson or Lincoln would recognize the party platforms of to-day? Read what a few statesmen have said:

Andrew Jackson said in his farewell address while criticizing the national bank: "It openly claimed the power of regulating the currency throughout the United States. In other words, it asserted (and undoubtedly possessed) the power to make money plenty or scarce at its pleasure."

O. P. Morton: "There is gathered around the capital of this nation a gang of grates who thunders successfully at the doors until they have driven this government into the most preposterous acts of bad faith and legalized robbery that ever oppressed a free nation since the dawn of history."

Thomas Jefferson: "I sincerely believe with you that banks are more dangerous than standing armies. Put down the banks, and if this country cannot be carried through the longest war against her most powerful enemy without loading us with perpetual debt, I know nothing of my countrymen."

Salmon P. Chase: "My agency in procuring the passage of the national banking act was the greatest financial mistake of my life. It has built up a monopoly that effects every interest in the country. It should be repealed. But before this can be accomplished, the people will be arrayed on one side and the banks on the other in a contest such as we have never seen in this country."

Abraham Lincoln: "Monarchy is sometimes hinted at as a possible refuge from the powers of the people. It would be scarcely justified were I to omit exercising a warning voice against returning to despotism. It is the effort to place capital above labor in the structure of the government. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering a power which they now possess, and when surrendered their liberty will be lost."

John C. Calhoun: "Place the money power in the hands of a combination of a few individuals and they by expanding or contracting the currency may raise or sink prices at pleasure, and by purchasing when at the greatest depression and selling when at the greatest elevation, may command the whole property and industry of the community. The banking system concentrates and places this power in the hands of those who control it. Never was an engine invented better calculated to place the destinies of the many in the hands of the few."

Abraham Lincoln said in 1865: "Yes, we can all congratulate ourselves that this cruel war is drawing to a close. It has cost a vast amount of treasure and blood. The best blood of the flower of American youth has been freely offered upon our country's altar that the nation might live. It has indeed been a trying hour for the republic, but I see in the near future a crisis arising which unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this time more anxious for the safety of my country than ever before even in the midst of the war. God grant that my fears may prove groundless."

If those men were living to-day they would be in the Alliance movement and they wouldn't advise the people to wait till judgment day before they do something.—EDITOR.]

SPEAKER CRISP'S PROMISE OF REFORM WITH SPEAKER REED'S TACTICS.

One Works the Positive, and the Other the Negative End of the Same Partisan Battery—Result, Partisan Electricity to Keep Alive Sectionalism.

REPRESENTATIVES:—Profoundly grateful for this mark of your confidence and esteem, I pledge myself here and now to devote whatever of industry and ability I possess to the advancement of the real interest of the Democratic party.

These are the remarks of Mr. Speaker Crisp on taking his seat. He said nothing about the people, the country, or even his own section of it, which is at present so needful of a friend in power. According to his own confession he is a partisan, elected in the interests of partisans, which he gives the broader name of party. His is the same philosophy that guided Speaker Reed's practice. According to his own confession he will judge every question by its effect upon the interests of his party—the party which elected him. If any great reform is advanced during his reign, it will be because he and his backers believe partisan interest cannot be hurt by it.

If he thinks the great Democratic majority in the House is because the people prefer one set of partisans to another, he will learn better later. A mere partisan is unpopular now no matter what his hobby. The people now perfectly understand that mere partisan agitation will never accomplish any real reform no matter under what banner. Men will be partisan enough—too partisan when the name and the interests of their party are never mentioned, when only principles and the interests of the people and the country are discussed. But when a speaker announces that he is going to use his great judicial office to further the interests of his party, we see at once that if he is consistent with his philosophy he will thrash over and over the same old straw of partisan agitation with like results.

The same public sentiment that would tolerate a partisan in the Speaker's chair, will tolerate him in the Supreme Court of the United States. The same Speaker that will "leg" for his party in making laws will leg and log-roll for it in interpreting them—will pack committees in partisan and personal interests, and will use his high judicial office to do anything that modern partisan warfare requires of its votaries, its victims, its dupes and its tools.

Crisp may be better than his philosophy—better than he pretends to be, though men seldom are; but under his reign I shall be disappointed if I hear of much else but "organization," "party," "caucus," and the usual appliances of machine politics. It is but human nature to retaliate upon the tyrannical majority—it is still more the nature of party majorities. The result of it all will be that after some months of bullying the bullies who lately bullied them, they will so disgust the people with the triumphant party that they will again vote the Republicans into power, and the old party saw-saw will go on as ever. Congress reminds me of a gigantic bull fight. The partisans are the bulls. The people, the spectators at a cost of five million dollars a day. (They paid a thousand million dollars for the Reed McKinley show.) The capitalists are the managers, and make money, no matter which set of bulls win the fight. The bloody-shirt is the red flag which is used to make them mad. The lobbyists and newspapers are the goaders. The grand Crisp combination company promises a show to last at least six months, which will rival the great gladiatorial contests of the latter Cæsars. All lovers of true partisan sport will be entertained as never before. Preparations of the most elaborate nature have been made. All tax payers are invited to witness the performance.

Last night I dreamed I saw in flaming red letters a bill poster of which the following is a copy: GRAND CRISP COMBINATION COMPANY!

To show every day for at least six months, except Sundays and holidays. SPECIAL COMMITTEES SIDE SHOW PERFORMANCES every day including Sundays!

Spartacus Crisp to fight with the celebrated Maine robber, Reed. If Reed is killed he is to be buried with the Czars. (Force) Bill Lodge, a noted African philanthropist, is to fight Free Trade Mills. Mills' armor is made entirely out of Confederate buttons, while Lodge has a war net made entirely from the sinews of Juno Brown's body and native African wool gathered from the heads of negroes who have been cheated out of their votes. Mr. Lodge will wear the bloody shirt worn by a commissary officer within 32 miles of the battle of Gettysburg!

Many other single combats and some important committee battles! The wonderful process of strangling bills in committee rooms will be elaborated but not explained!

THE GREAT PISHOW ON EARTH IN TWO GREAT RINGS: The Senate ring and the House ring and many smaller ones!

Grand pension plunderers' procession to cost 150 millions! GRAND SHAM BATTLE between the surviving brigadiers of the civil war! Grand partisan war song: "I have been baptized in my brother's blood."

GRAND PANORAMA: Gettysburg fought over in Congress. Vocal solo by Lodge: "Negro in the wood pile."

GRAND CHARIOT RACE between the gold and silver dollar to see which can get the quickest into the Yankee's pocket!

Ben Hurr Edmunds driving the gold dollar chariot. GRAND PARADE of the protected plutocrats and their imported pauper labor!

Panorama: Flood of silver money drowning rich men.

CONCERT SONG BY LODGE: The negro'll never vote right till the Yankee counts his votes.

Oration by Sherman: The flight of gold before silver.

THE SOUTH IN THE WAR: Daily chant recitation by one hundred Southern Representatives and twenty Southern Senators.

Daily choral chant response by Northern Senators and Representatives: THE NORTH IN THE WAR. Cost of this music, one million dollars per day.

Grand march to the public treasury participated in by both parties to the tune: "We've all been there before many a time, many a time."

CHORAL RECITATIONS BY BOTH PARTIES: "United we stand" against the Sub Treasury bill, civil service reform and reduction of salaries. "Divided we fall" into the hands of the Alliance.

GRAND FINAL CHORUS BY ALL THE MEMBERS BELONGING TO BOTH PARTIES. All hail the power of the party name—adapted to circus music. W. J. PEELE.

OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM—BEST IN THE WORLD—FOR FAILURES.

The following table shows the correct number of failures since 1864. It shows how contraction has done its deadly work. In 1865 the number was 495; in 1890 it was 15,355. The returns for 1891 will show not less than 17,000 failures.

We wish we could give the exact number of firms in business in 1864 and at the present time. But this being next to impossible, we will give the number and increase according to population. In 1864 the population of the United States was about 37,000,000. In 1890 it was 63,000,000. Our population has increased a fraction over 70 per cent. The number of failures, as shown by the table below, has increased three thousand and nearly one hundred per cent. We repeat it, "increase in population seventy per cent; increase in business failures three thousand and one hundred per cent." Now read the figures and think whether or not we need a change. Every business man in the country should be in hearty accord with the reforms proposed by the Alliance.

Table with 3 columns: YEAR, Number, Liabilities. Data points for years 1864 through 1890, showing a significant increase in both the number of failures and their total liabilities over time.

THE AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY.

One of the greatest monopolies in this country is the American Tobacco Company. It is composed of a number of large manufacturing concerns and seeks to dictate prices both in buying and selling. It is strange that the laws of the States will not reach this concern. Perhaps no one has tried to punish them.

It has been currently reported that the Blackwell Company, at Durham, had become a part of this concern; but it appears that Mr. J. S. Carr, President of the Blackwell Company, positively refused to join in the game of robbery. We don't know how many factories in North Carolina have fallen victims, but they should be spotted and ignored by tobacco raisers.

We would like to have any information that manufacturers or others can give about it for "private use in our business."

RESOLUTION BY STATE ALLIANCE.

It is not the custom to publish very much of the proceedings of the State Alliance. But some parts have been published. One resolution passed at Morehead in August should have been published earlier, but was overlooked. It was a resolution of thanks to the retiring officers of the State body, and was as follows:

Resolved, That the thanks of the State Alliance are due and are hereby tendered to our faithful and impartial retiring officers—President Elias Carr, Vice-President A. H. Hayes, Treasurer J. D. Allen, Chaplain S. J. Veach and Assistant Lecturer R. B. Hunter; that we will ever remember their faithful services as Alliancemen and as co-laborers in this grand and noble work; and that these resolutions be published in the reform press of North Carolina.

ROSLINDALE, Bladen Co., N. C., December 4, 1891. W. H. Worth, Raleigh, N. C.: DEAR SIR AND BRO.—I used the Alliance Official Guano this year on some cotton, peas, potatoes, collards and turnips with satisfactory results, the yield of corn being more than double. Can say it is the best fertilizer I ever used. Fraternally yours, L. S. PERRY.